

Amendments to Claims

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20. (Original) A bicomponent fiber of about 0.6-1.7 dtex comprising poly(trimethylene terephthalate) and a polyester selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene terephthalate) and copolyesters of poly(ethylene terephthalate), having an after-heat-set crimp contraction value above about 30%, a cross-section selected from the group consisting of side-by-side and eccentric sheath core, and a cross-sectional shape selected from the group consisting of snowman, oval, and substantially round.
21. (Original) The fiber of claim 20 wherein the weight ratio of the selected polyester to poly(trimethylene terephthalate) is about 30/70 to 70/30, and the fiber has an after-heat-set crimp contraction value of at least about 40% and a substantially round cross-sectional shape.

22. (Original) The fiber of claim 20 wherein the selected polyester is a copolyester of poly(ethylene terephthalate) in which a comonomer utilized to make the copolyester is selected from the group consisting of:

linear, cyclic, and branched aliphatic dicarboxylic acids having 4-12 carbon atoms;

aromatic dicarboxylic acids having 8-12 carbon atoms;

linear, cyclic, and branched aliphatic diols having 3-8 carbon atoms; and

aliphatic and araliphatic ether glycols having 4-10 carbon atoms.

23. (Original) The fiber of claim 22 wherein the comonomer is selected from the group consisting of isophthalic acid, pentanedioic acid, hexanedioic acid, dodecanedioic acid, 1,4-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, 1,3-propane diol, and 1,4-butanediol and is present in the copolyester at a level of about 0.5-15 mole percent.

24. (Original) A bicomponent fiber having an after-heat-set crimp contraction value above about 30% and an average decitex spread of less than about 2.5%, the fiber comprising poly(trimethylene terephthalate) and a polyester selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene terephthalate) and copolyesters of poly(ethylene terephthalate), having a cross-section selected from the group consisting of side-by-side and eccentric sheath core and a cross-sectional shape selected from the group consisting of snowman, oval, and substantially round.

25. (Original) The fiber of claim 24 having a crimp contraction value of above 40%, an average decitex spread in the range of about 1.0-2.0%, a side-by-side cross-section, a substantially round cross-sectional shape.

26. (Original) The fiber of claim 25 having a weight ratio of the selected copolyester to poly(trimethylene terephthalate) of about 30/70 to 70/30, and a comonomer utilized to make the copolyester is selected from the group consisting of isophthalic acid, pentanedioic acid, hexanedioic acid, dodecanedioic acid, 1,4-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, 1,3-propane diol, and 1,4-butanediol, the comonomer being present in the copolyester at a level of about 0.5-15 mole percent.

27. (New) A fiber comprising poly(trimethylene terephthalate) and a polyester selected from the group consisting of poly(ethyleneterephthalate) and copolyesters of

poly(ethylene terephthalate) wherein the weight ratio of the selected polyester to poly(trimethylene terephthalate) is about 30/70 to 70/30, which has been spun at a withdrawal speed in the range of about 1,000 to 3,000 meters per minute and wound up but not drawn.

28. (New) A fiber comprising poly(trimethylene terephthalate) and a polyester selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene terephthalate) and copolyesters of poly(ethylene terephthalate) wherein the weight ratio of the selected polyester to poly(trimethylene terephthalate) is about 30/70 to 70/30, which has been spun at a withdrawal speed in the range of about 820 to 4,000 meters per minute and wound up but not drawn, the wound fiber having a linear density of 1.4-2.2 dtex per filament.

29. (New) The fiber according to claim 28 wherein the withdrawal speed is in the range of about 2,800 to 4,000 meters per minute.

30. (New) A process for preparing a bicomponent fiber comprising the steps of:

(a) providing poly(trimethylene terephthalate) and a polyester selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene terephthalate) and a copolyester of poly(ethylene terephthalate) having different intrinsic viscosities;

(b) melt-spinning the two polyesters from a spinneret to form at least one bicomponent fiber having a cross-section selected from the group consisting of side-by-side and eccentric sheath-core;

(c) providing at least one flow of gas to at least one quench zone below the spinneret and accelerating the flow to a maximum velocity in the direction of fiber travel;

(d) passing the fiber through the quench zone;

(e) withdrawing the fiber at a withdrawal speed in the range of about: 820 to 4,000 meters per minute when co-current quench gas flow is used, and in the range of about 1,000 to 3,000 meters per minute when cross or radial quench gas flow is used; and

(h) winding up the fiber without drawing.

31. (New) The process of claim 30 further comprising, after step (h), the steps of

- (i) drawing; and
- (j) heat-treating the fibers.

32. (New) The process of claim 31 wherein the fibers have, after step (j), an after-heat-set crimp contraction value of at least about 30%.

33. (New) The process of claim 31 wherein step (i) follows step (h) by less than about 35 days.

34. (New) The fiber of claim 27 made by the process of claim 30.

35. (New) The fiber of claim 28 made by the process of claim 30.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT B. FURR, JR.
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS

Registration No.: 32,985

Telephone: (302) 892-7910

Facsimile: (302) 892-7925

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